

REPORT ON POSTAL SERVICE.

REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK FOR THE PAST YEAR.

Contemplated Improvements in the Service in This City—Merits to Be Controlling Factor in Appointment and Promotion—More Stringent Restriction of the Franking Privilege.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The annual report of the Postmaster-General reviews the work of the Department for the last year and discusses important changes that have been made in departmental organization and in the method of appointing postmasters. After referring to the fact that there is shortly to be celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, who was for more than twenty years Deputy Postmaster-General for the Colonies and who was at the head of the postal service under the confederation, the Postmaster-General says:

What a contrast between the service of his day and that of the present time! From 75 post offices in 1790, the year of Franklin's death, the number had grown in 1901 to 78,945, and now is 78,131; from receipts of \$17,945 and expenditures of \$12,140 we have advanced in the same period to receipts of \$12,826,585 and expenditures of \$167,390,109 from a total force of about 500 to a total force of about 280,000.

The report gives the receipts and expenditures of the Department for 1904 and 1905 as follows:

	1904	1905
Ordinary postal revenue	\$11,954,221.70	\$12,826,585.08
Receipts from money order business	2,528,402.64	2,596,680.12
Total receipts	\$14,482,624.34	\$15,423,265.20

	1904	1905
On acct. of the year	\$152,107,537.50	\$167,181,959.79
On acct. of prev. years	254,579.40	217,209.44
Total expenditures	\$152,362,116.70	\$167,390,109.23
Total receipts	\$14,482,624.34	\$15,423,265.20

Excess exp. over receipts \$8,778,492.36 \$14,372,584.13

Of the Department's policy in regard to the appointment of postmasters the report says:

Efforts for improved service, to be effective, must carry the full recognition, in positions of all grades, of merit as the controlling factor in appointments and promotion.

Under instructions recently issued a careful rating is given to each post office. This rating, based upon inspectors' reports and other data, will have material weight in the Department's attitude toward a postmaster's reappointment. Fourth class postmasters will be retained during satisfactory service.

In the case of Presidential postmasters who seek reappointment, the ratings will be made to the Department in making its recommendations to the President.

NEW YORK CITY POST OFFICE.

The report discusses the needs of the New York post office and says:

The city of New York is the metropolis of the country. It is also the great distributing point for the national mail service. Its needs are therefore peculiar. With its rapid increase in population and extension of business it makes unusual demands upon the postal service, furnishing at the same time a proportionately large share of receipts.

Several months ago there was submitted to me for approval a draft of a proposed deed for the acquisition by the Government for post office purposes, in accordance with the recommendation of a committee of the city, for the acquisition of a ground adjoining the site of the new terminal station to be erected by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in New York city. I have thus far withheld my approval of the proposed deed, for this property, for the acquisition of which an appropriation was made, wishing to familiarize myself more fully with the postal problem presented and to consider the advisability of certain modifications of the original plan with the object of providing the best possible manner for the future needs of New York's postal service. A definite plan is now being devised for the solution of this problem, and it is hoped that the matter can be satisfactorily solved in the near future.

The Department is giving careful consideration to plans for the improvement of the service in New York and other cities. The generally accepted practice both as to location and arrangement of post offices in these cities fails to secure adequate facilities. A notable instance of this is the new Federal building in Chicago, which is lamentably deficient in certain essentials.

WORK OF PURIFYING THE MAILS.

In discussing "the use of the mails for fraudulent purposes," the report says that the Postmaster-General's authority to issue fraud orders extends only to lotteries and similar enterprises and schemes for obtaining money or property through the mails by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations or promises. It adds:

The mere advertising of an article in newspapers or other papers or passing through the mails, without seeking or making sales of such articles through that medium, is not such a use of the mails as is contemplated by the statute. The scheme must be one for obtaining money or property through the mails, or for coming within the jurisdiction of the Post Office Department in respect of which fraud orders may be issued.

The Department would have no more authority under the law to issue orders against the operations of individuals or companies engaged in the manufacture and sale of proprietary medicines, unless such sales are made through the mails, than of the innumerable enterprises throughout the country engaged in the sale of medicines generally, and in the sale of various other articles, which are advertised in newspapers and other publications passing through the mails, but in which no order has been issued by the Post Office Department should undertake to supervise or regulate the conduct of such enterprises.

FRAUD ORDERS ISSUED.

In the year ended June 30, 1905, fraud orders to the number of 37 were issued, or more than twice the number promulgated during the preceding year, which was 167. Of the total number of fraud orders issued in the fiscal year 1905, 82 were supplemental to previous orders and intended to reach persons and concerns whose business had been theretofore declared fraudulent, and who were seeking to continue it under new names.

The work of purifying the mails is not confined to the suppression of frauds and lotteries, but includes as well the exclusion therefrom of obscene, indecent and scurrilous matter, and the punishment of those found to have deposited such matter for transmission. A more strict enforcement of these statutes recently has brought about highly gratifying results.

PNEUMATIC TUBE SERVICE.

The report recommends an appropriation of \$1,233,874.88 for pneumatic tube mail service, and that the service be extended between some of the more important mail points in the cities of Baltimore, Brooklyn, Chicago, Cincinnati, Kansas City, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and San Francisco. On the subject of Government control of this service the report says:

The time seems to have arrived when renewal of leases for a period of ten years, with an option of purchase by the Government, should be authorized by Congress, or an outright purchase of the tubes now in operation, including valid patents deemed essential to construction and maintenance, should be provided for by adequate appropriations.

The full experimental service authorized by Congress has not yet been completed, mainly because a four year contract was not deemed long enough to enable companies to sell bonds at reasonable rates, and until this full service can be installed, and the best and best machinery can be tested under various conditions and for a longer period, immediate ownership, however desirable, seems impracticable. I there-

A Revival of Bead Embroideries

Originating with the painstaking workers in the early Convents and highly favored during Colonial times, the Gorham Company's productions in Bead Embroideries are a worthy revival of a well-nigh forgotten handicraft. Many beautiful examples of this work, in articles of personal convenience which are quaintly effective both in color and design, may be seen in the new Gorham Building

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fore recommend that legislative authority be granted to make such contract hereafter, whether renewal or otherwise for a ten year term, in conformity with the ten year period of leases for important postal stations in which tubes are to be installed, and further, for the insertion in each contract of a clear and well defined option of purchase by the Government at the end of any year of the contract term after four years on one year's notice.

WAGON SERVICE.

The magnitude of the wagon service necessary for the proper handling of mails in great cities has produced a situation in recent years which threatens serious interruption of the service at times and under conditions which render the Department well-nigh powerless to command adequate temporary service, except at exorbitant rates. Government ownership of wagons seems worthy of a fair trial in one or more of the great cities.

I recommend that out of the appropriation available for wagon service the Postmaster-General be authorized to expend, in his discretion, not exceeding \$100,000 in the purchase of wagons and the employment of the same in a certain well defined section of one of the great cities, where an experimental test can be made to the best advantage of the Government, in his judgment.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

At the close of the year the railway mail service comprised 12,474 officers and employees, an increase in the year of 539.

In the amount of ordinary mail handled there was an increase of about 5.77 per cent, as compared with the preceding year, and an increase of about 18 per cent in the amount of registered matter.

During the year twelve clerks, including one substitute clerk, were killed while on duty. The preceding year there were eighteen regular clerks, two substitute clerks and one mail carrier killed. The number of clerks seriously injured was 125, as against ninety for last year. The number of clerks slightly injured was 358, as against 345 for last year.

The arduous and hazardous duties incident to the service emphasize the desirability of some legislative action that will make provision for clerks worn out in the service and maintain the vigor and efficiency of the service by the gradual elimination of supernumerary clerks.

RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION.

On June 30, 1905, there were 3,004 railroad routes, the total length of which was 206,965.33 miles, with an annual travel of 362,645,731.83 miles.

The annual rate of expenditure in the United States was \$39,834,672.75. The increase for the year was 4,057.99 miles in length of routes, 9,007,343.15 miles in annual travel, and \$655,491.23 in annual rate of expenditure.

The present method of determining the rates of pay for this service is not altogether satisfactory, and while I am not yet prepared to suggest specific changes, it is believed that certain inquiries that are being instituted through departmental channels will afford data on which to base future recommendations. The plan now followed appears to furnish a somewhat uncertain basis upon which to make annual expenditures exceeding \$40,000,000.

TO STUDY FOREIGN POSTAL SYSTEMS.

The report recommends an appropriation of \$10,000 to enable the Postmaster-General to detail at least three experienced postal officials to visit the cities of Europe having the most complete and efficient postal systems, and make report to him from time to time of practical suggestions looking to the betterment of our service. "The postal service of this country," the report says, "should not be surpassed by that of any other nation."

On the subject of foreign mail service the report says:

Congress has authorized the Postmaster-General by the act of 1901 to contract with owners of American steamships for ocean mail service and has realized the impracticability of commanding suitable steamships in the interest of the postal service. By contracting with such steamships of a size, class and equipment which will promote commerce and become available as auxiliary cruisers of the navy in case of need.

The compensation allowed to such steamships is found to be wholly inadequate to secure the proposals, contemplated, hence advertisements from time to time have failed to develop any bids for such mail service.

The unprecedented expansion of trade and foreign commerce requires prompt consideration of an adequate foreign mail service. Expenditures to this end seem fully justified also from the standpoint of a proper naval establishment, inasmuch as the vessels performing service are also built as to be readily converted into auxiliary cruisers.

DOMESTIC PARCEL POST.

The Postmaster-General does not deem it wise, at least at this time, to ask authority of Congress for the establishment of a separate parcel post in the domestic service, but an earnest recommendation is made that third and fourth class mail matter be merged at the rate of 1 cent for two ounces.

FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

The Postmaster-General favors a return to the practice of requiring Government free matter to be prepaid by postage stamps in the same way as similar matter mailed by the public. He gives figures to show that last year it caused a loss of revenue of nearly \$20,000,000. He says:

There are, however, sound administrative reasons why it would be better business policy for each Department to pay postage

PUBLICATIONS.

The 14th Day Before Christmas Day

Good books are living things that add to the recipient's life.

Why not BOOKS for Christmas?

LITTLE WORSE 'N MRS. WARREN

"THE RIGHT TO LOVE" TRIED BY PROGRESSIVE STAGE SOCIETY.

Proceedings While the Curtain Is Up Begin in Gloom and End in Despair With Very Low and Vulgar Acres and High Temperatures for the Bathheads.

The Progressive Stage Society jerked the American drama up two or three notches more yesterday afternoon. The vehicle of expression was Max Nordau's "The Right to Love."

Every one knows Max Nordau and the modern school who catch attention by the methods of little wanton boys who write on fences. "The Right to Love," in passages, makes "Mrs. Warren's Profession" look like the memoirs of Nathan Q. Judd, the child convert. It rises to a temperature of 216 degrees, caused with tobacco. Not it has not been widely advertised and this is not the week before election, so that the police will probably take no notice.

Max Nordau also belongs to the modern "Nothing Doing" school of dramatists. The curtain rises on gloom and falls on despair. People sit around in twos and threes and talk epigrams and the future of society. About once an act it looks for a moment as though some one were going to make a careless movement and start something, but no one ever does. It is just a bluff of the author to make us feel that they can get the first passages of a dialogue on the adolescence of infancy or the destiny of matrimony. The "Nothing Doing" school, as interpreted by the Progressive Stage Society, is further characterized by long waits between acts accompanied not by music, but by intellectual conversation and speeches by President Hopp.

The story of "The Right to Love," as gleaned from the proceedings yesterday, is about as follows:

First. Bertha Wehrmann doesn't love Herr Wehrmann any more. You can see it as soon as the curtain rises. It is the eighth anniversary of their wedding. He puts on the soft pedal and talks about that night when the moon shone outside the Pullman car but they did not sleep. It moves her not at all, for, as becomes plain in three intellectual dialogues, she loves Otto Bardenhelm. From the proceedings yesterday it is hard to tell why—possibly because he combines a lip with an Eighth Avenue face and a bowery act of gestures. Possibly he loves her because her under-skirt doesn't hang right until the last act, when he throws her down anyway. As for Herr Wehrmann, no woman ought to have a man whose frock coat fits that way in the neck. The first act establishes these facts.

The second act is an intellectual conversation between Bertha and her mother, wherein the conservative school of matrimony argues the right of a woman to a standard. In this act it is established that it is too late to draw back.

The third act occurs in Otto's room. He is talking with another rake, who has just been turned down by his mistress. The first part of the act establishes the fact that Otto is a singularly unpleasant kind of cad; also that his opinions are a mile warmer than Mrs. Warren's plain truths.

Enter Bertha. She wants to get a divorce and married him. He rejects the scandal and his position as a government employee, and gives a terse refusal.

It is hardly fair to be flippant with the last act, which is a pretty piece of dramatic construction and after all this is a racking tragedy. The wife is caught. Instead of trying to escape she confesses to her cold, formal, but just husband. He summons Otto. The wife, the wronged husband and the rake meet.

"I will give you satisfaction," says Otto. But the husband wants no satisfaction of a kind. He wants Otto to right the wrong to the woman to marry her after a divorce. Otto refuses and sneaks away, leaving the woman to her husband. And Wehrmann lays it down plainly. Her punishment shall be that she shall live with him, who loathes her, beside at his table, rear his children, appear with him in society. The curtain falls on her sob.

After the third act Mr. Hopp makes a speech explaining that the elevation of the drama is going to pot unless some one dives deep into his pocket. He appealed to all members and every one else in the sound of his voice to send 50 cents. "That would be \$200," he said. "We never had \$200 all at once. Think how much better we'd be off with \$200. And won't you

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give us an audience next time? We've 1,300 people on the mailing list, and there isn't anybody up in the gallery at all. But if you can't come, anyway send your 50 cents."

The performance of yesterday was for members only. To-night and to-morrow night it will be repeated at the Berkeley Lyceum for the public.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

The German tank steamship Bayonne, which sailed on December 3 for Malta and Venice with a cargo of refined petroleum, returned yesterday with her port boiler leaking badly.

THERE is some difference in the quality of all Turkish Cigarettes. If you were to bring each different brand to me, I could show you by comparison with the Murad, in just what point they differ. Some are too strong; and some are too mild. The strength of the finest Turkish leaf used in

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